

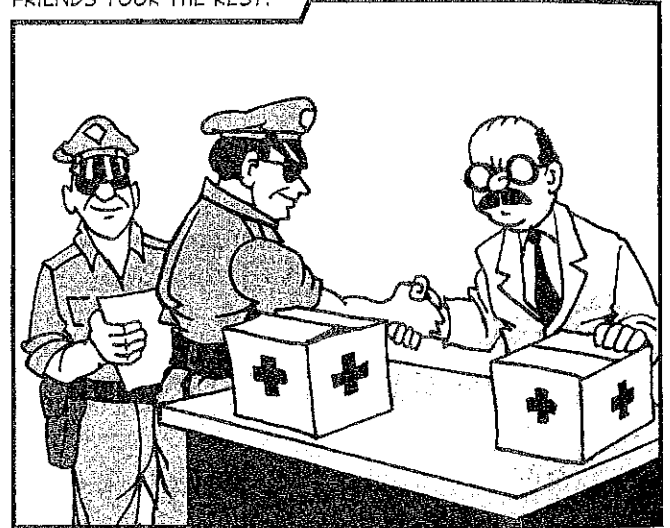
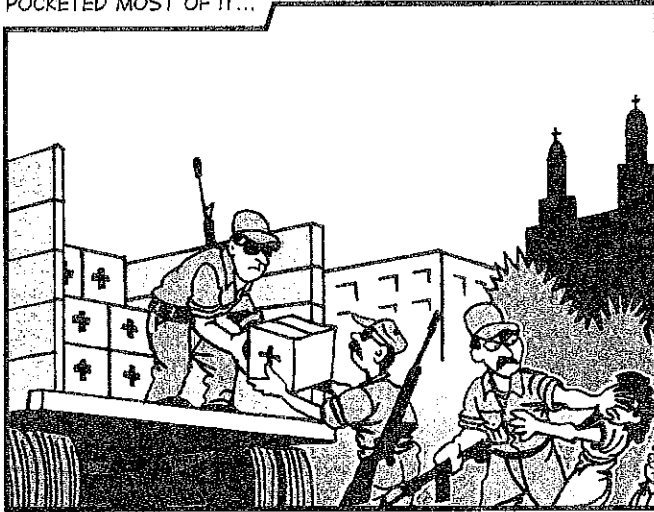
# The Sandinista Revolution

DECEMBER 23, 1972, MANAGUA, NICARAGUA: AN EARTHQUAKE DESTROYED MOST OF THIS CAPITAL CITY OF HALF A MILLION PEOPLE, KILLING 20,000 AND LEAVING A QUARTER MILLION HOMELESS.

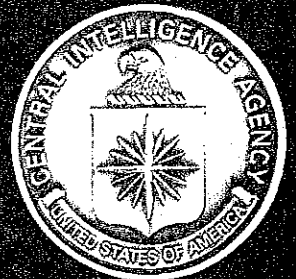
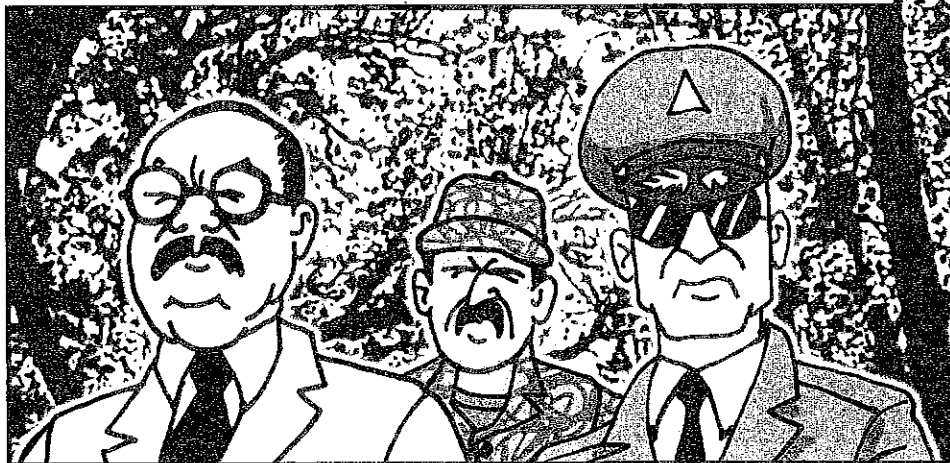


MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN INTERNATIONAL AID FLOWED INTO THE COUNTRY, BUT THE NATIONAL GUARD (*GUARDISTAS*) POCKETED MOST OF IT...

...AND DICTATOR *ANASTASIO SOMOZA* AND HIS WEALTHY FRIENDS TOOK THE REST.



FOR 40 YEARS, NICARAGUANS SUFFERED UNDER THE U.S.-BACKED *SOMOZA* FAMILY *DICTIONSHIP*. THE *GUARDISTAS* WERE THE FAMILY'S ENFORCERS, RUNNING GAMBLING, SMUGGLING, AND PROSTITUTION OPERATIONS; BEATING AND INTIMIDATING OPPOSITION; AND RIGGING ELECTIONS. NICARAGUANS CALLED THEM THEIR *MAFIA IN UNIFORM*.

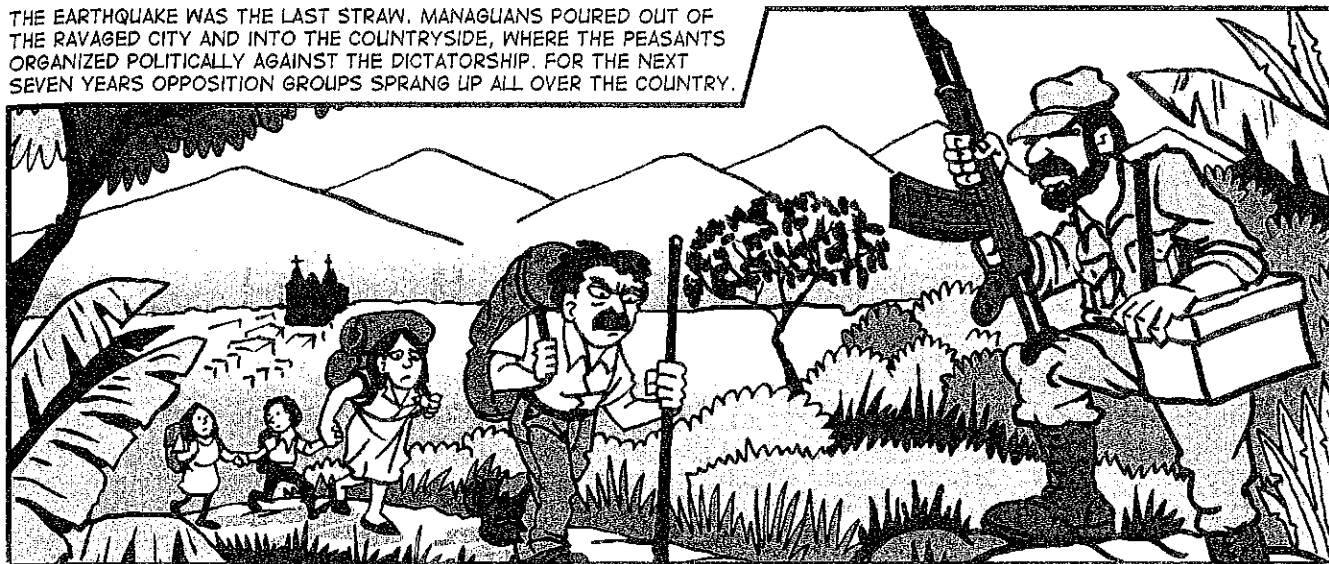


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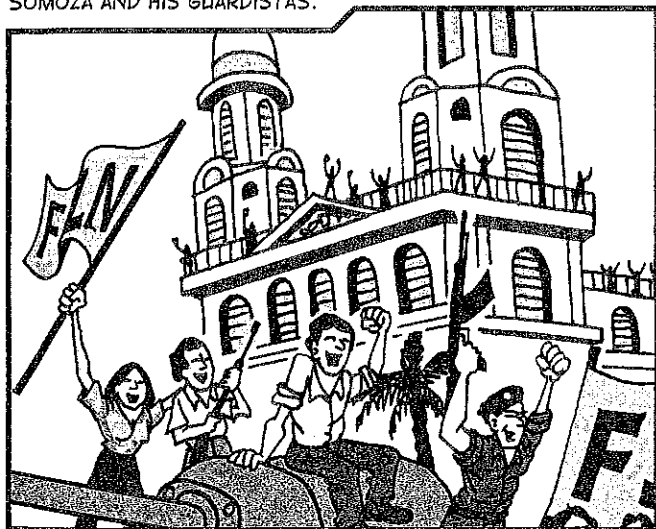
THE *GUARDISTAS* ALSO PULLED DUTY FOR THE EMPIRE. IN 1961, THEY HELPED TO TRAIN AND LAUNCH TROOPS IN THE C.I.A.'S INVASION OF CUBA AT THE BAY OF PIGS.

THE EARTHQUAKE WAS THE LAST STRAW. MANAGUANS POURED OUT OF THE RAVAGED CITY AND INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE, WHERE THE PEASANTS ORGANIZED POLITICALLY AGAINST THE DICTATORSHIP. FOR THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS OPPOSITION GROUPS SPRANG UP ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.



JULY 1979: FINALLY, A COALITION OF CITIZENS DEFEATED SOMOZA AND HIS GUARDISTAS.

THE DICTATOR FLED TO PARAGUAY...

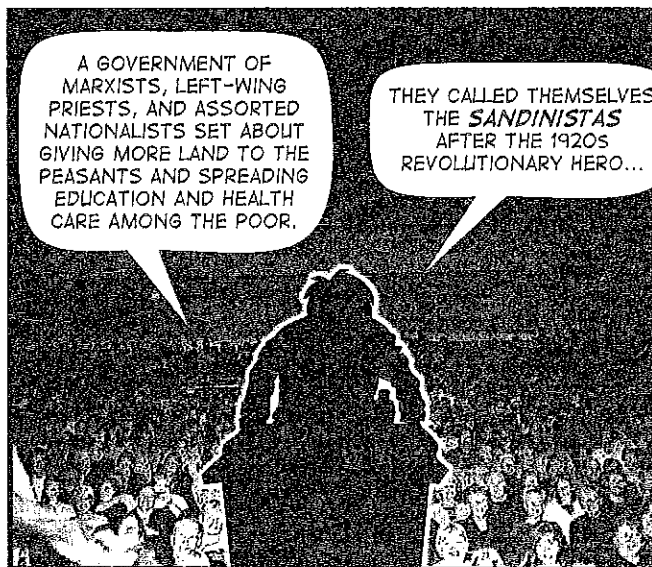


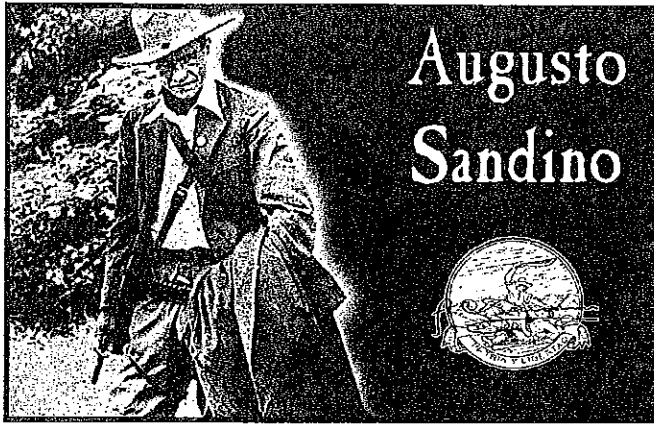
...WHILE THE "UNIFORMED MAFIA" REORGANIZED ACROSS THE NORTHERN BORDER IN HONDURAS, CALLING THEMSELVES CONTRAREVOLUCIONARIOS, OR *CONTRAS* FOR SHORT.



A GOVERNMENT OF MARXISTS, LEFT-WING PRIESTS, AND ASSORTED NATIONALISTS SET ABOUT GIVING MORE LAND TO THE PEASANTS AND SPREADING EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE AMONG THE POOR.

THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE *SANDINISTAS* AFTER THE 1920S REVOLUTIONARY HERO...

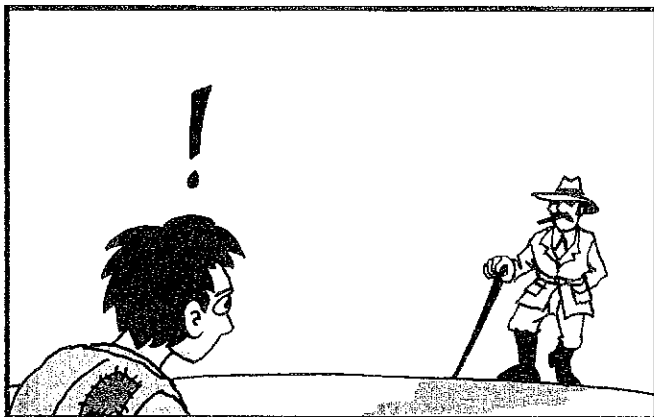
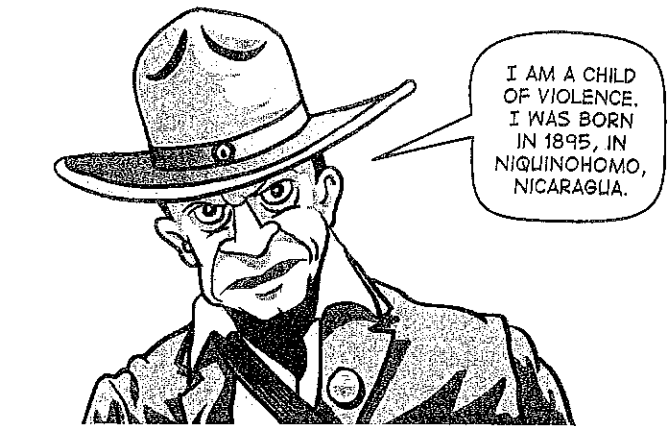
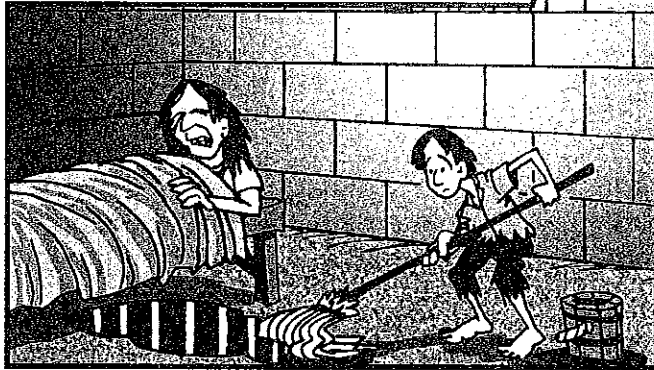




MY FATHER, *GREGORIO SANDINO*, HAD RAPED MY MOTHER, AN INDIAN WHO WORKED ON THE PLANTATION HE OWNED.

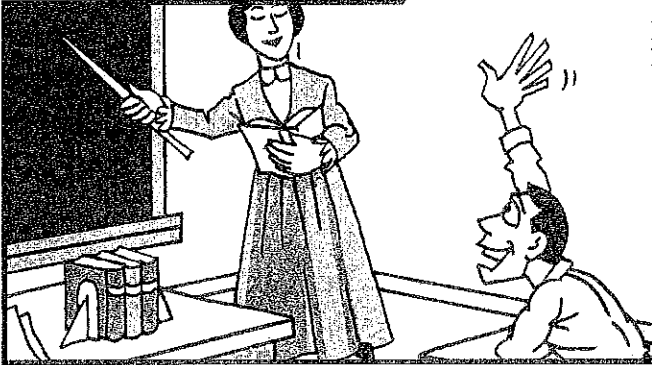


ONCE, WHEN WE WERE JAILED FOR HER DEBTS, SHE SUFFERED A MISCARRIAGE. I ALONE CARED FOR HER.

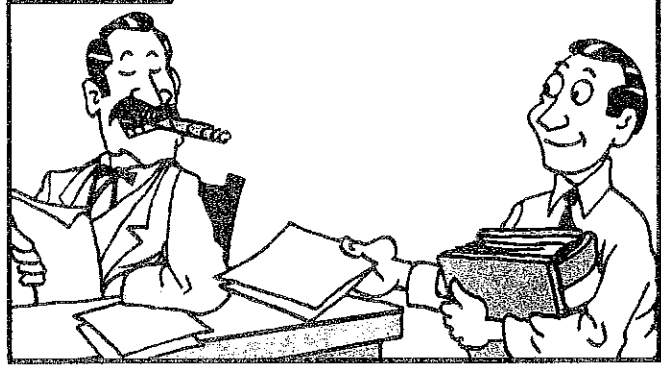




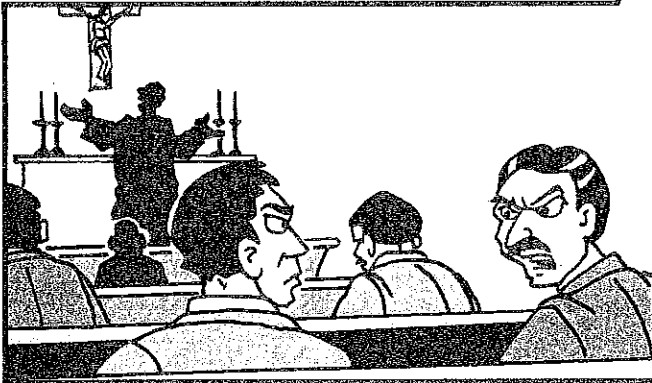
MY FATHER AND I RECONCILED. I BEGAN A NEW LIFE AS HIS SON AND BURIED MYSELF IN STUDIES.



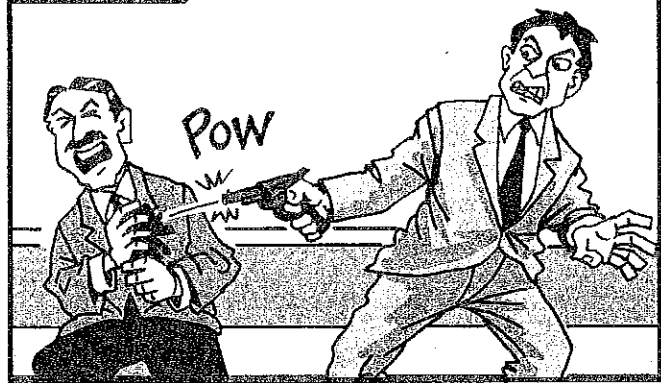
IN A FEW YEARS I WAS ABLE TO HELP MY FATHER WITH HIS ACCOUNTS.



WHEN I WAS 26, A RICH MAN'S SON INSULTED ME AT MASS.



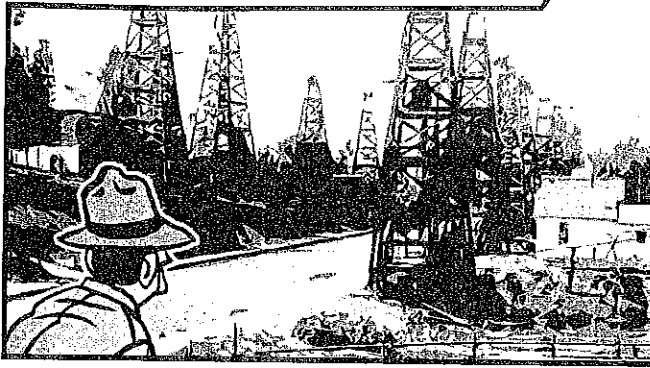
I SHOT HIM.



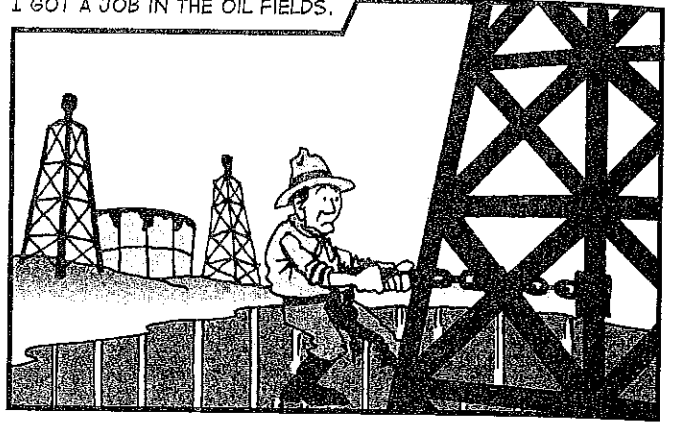
THE SCANDAL DROVE ME ABROAD.



I ESCAPED TO TAMPICO, MEXICO, IN 1922. THE POT WAS STILL BOILING FROM THE 1910 MEXICAN REVOLUTION.

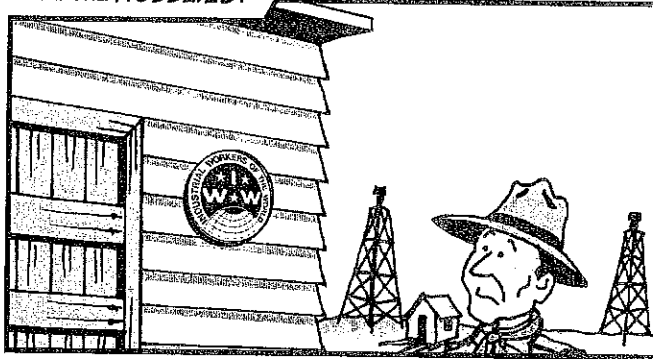


I GOT A JOB IN THE OIL FIELDS.



TAMPICO WAS OWNED BY STANDARD OIL AND ORGANIZED BY THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD (I.W.W.), A.K.A. THE WOBBLES.

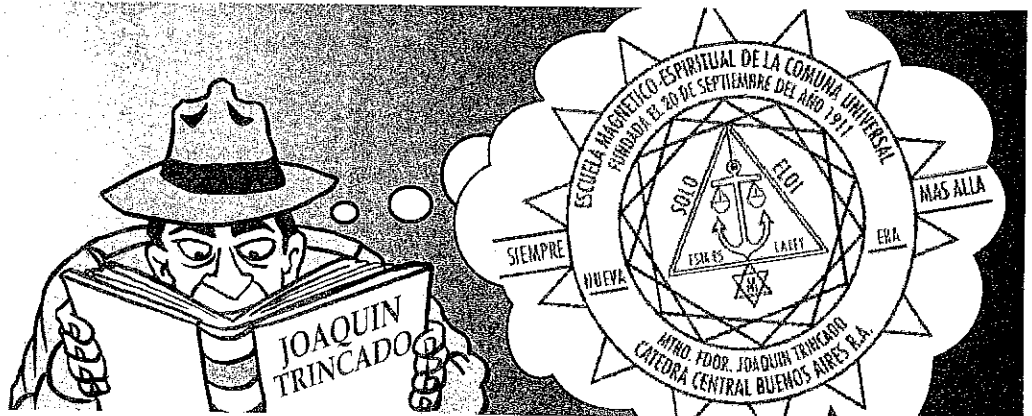
THE I.W.W. HAD SHUT DOWN THE OIL FIELDS DURING THE GENERAL STRIKE OF 1912. WHEN I ARRIVED, FAMOUS WOBBLY ENRIQUE MAGON WAS THEIR LEADER.



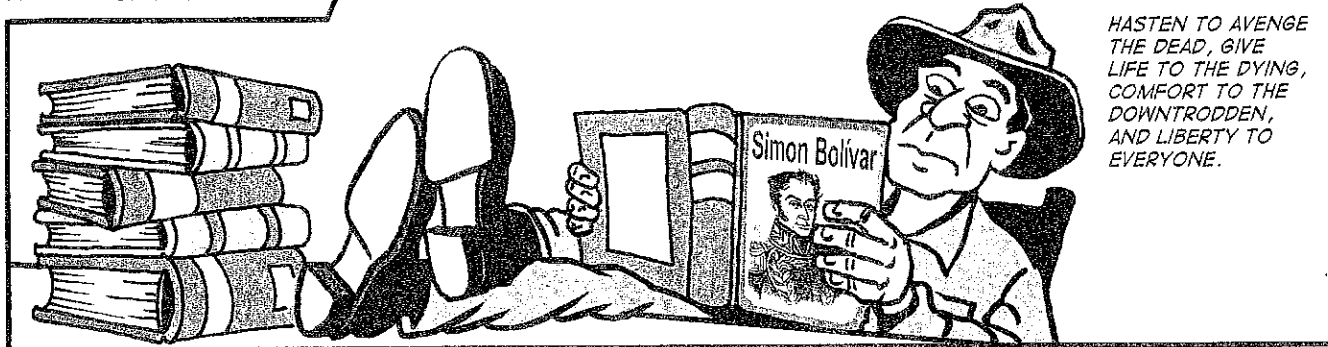
MEXICO WAS LIKE PARIS IN THE 19TH CENTURY - THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING NEW, EXPERIMENTAL, AND REVOLUTIONARY.



I STUDIED YOGA, POLITICAL MESMERISM, AND REVOLUTIONARY FREEMASONRY AT THE BOLSHEVIK GRAND LODGE. I READ Gnostic HISTORY WRITTEN BY SPANISH POLITICAL MYSTIC JOAQUIN TRINCADO.

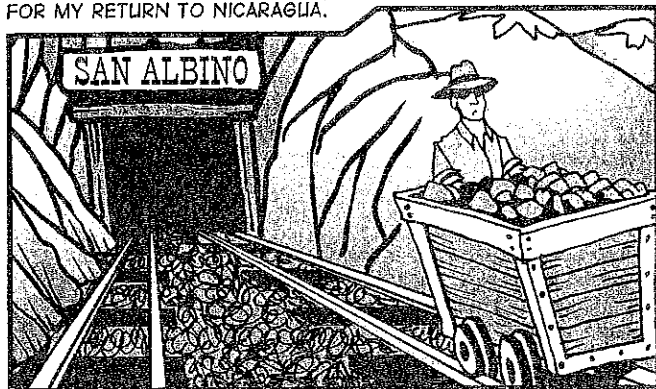


I ALSO STUDIED HISTORY, POLITICAL ECONOMICS, AND THE WORKS OF SIMON BOLIVAR, WHO LED THE FIGHT FOR SOUTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SPANISH EMPIRE.



HASTEN TO AVENGE THE DEAD, GIVE LIFE TO THE DYING, COMFORT TO THE DOWNTRODDEN, AND LIBERTY TO EVERYONE.

BY 1926, MY GRASP OF UNIVERSAL HISTORY HAD PREPARED ME FOR MY RETURN TO NICARAGUA.



I WENT BACK TO WORK AS A BOOKKEEPER FOR A GOLD MINE AND DISCOVERED THAT THE YANKEE OWNER WAS STEALING FROM THE MINERS. I TOLD THEM.



THE YANKEE OWNER OBJECTED TO OUR RABBLE-ROUSING.



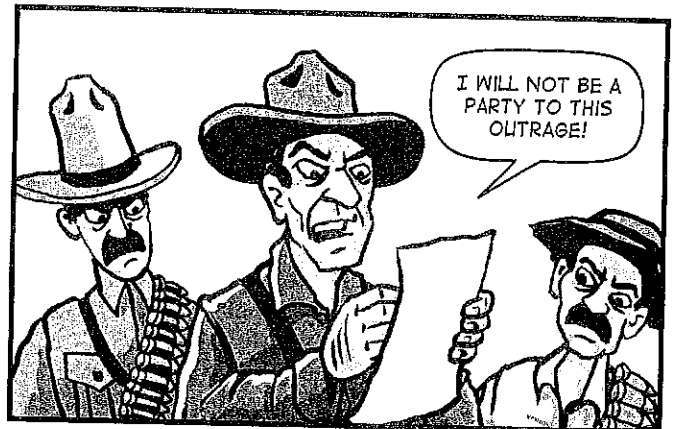
WE FLED INTO THE MOUNTAINS AFTER PAYING HIM OUR COMPLIMENTS.



I FLED INTO THE SEGOVIA MOUNTAINS AND JOINED LIBERAL REBELS FIGHTING THE GOVERNMENT. IN 1907, U.S. BANKERS HAD FINANCED A CONSERVATIVE REVOLUTION IN NICARAGUA. SOON AFTER, THE U.S. SENT IN MARINES TO PROTECT THE NEW GOVERNMENT. NICARAGUA WAS NOW DIVIDED INTO TWO WARRING CAMPS: THE CONSERVATIVES WHO SUPPORTED THE U.S. OCCUPATION AND THE LIBERALS WHO DIDN'T.



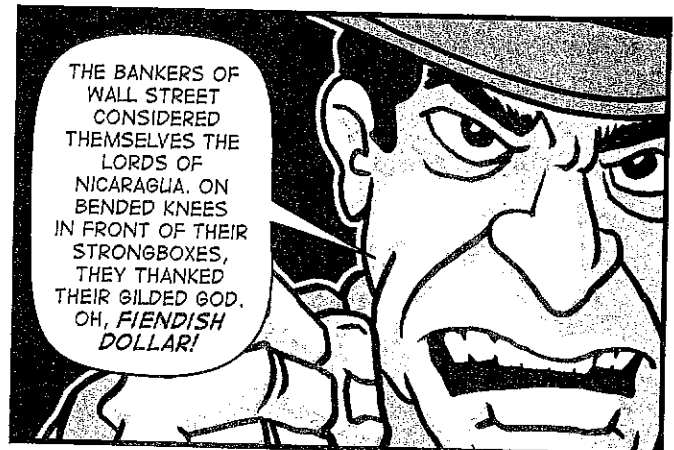
THE U.S. LOST PATIENCE WITH OUR CIVIL WAR. IN 1927, THEY SENT IN MORE MARINES TO FORCE A COALITION BETWEEN THE CONSERVATIVES AND LIBERALS AND ORGANIZE A NEW NATIONAL GUARD.



WE REJECT WITH THE DIGNITY AND PRIDE OF OUR RACE WHATEVER IMPOSITION IS BEING PREPARED BY THE ASSASSINS OF WEAK PEOPLES.



THE BANKERS OF WALL STREET CONSIDERED THEMSELVES THE LORDS OF NICARAGUA. ON BENDED KNEES IN FRONT OF THEIR STRONGBOXES, THEY THANKED THEIR GILDED GOD. OH, FIENDISH DOLLAR!





SANDINO'S RESISTANCE MADE HIM THE *HERO OF NICARAGUAN NATIONALISM*. THE YANKEE DEPRESSION AND A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE IN MANAGUA IN 1931 PUSHED HIM INTO EVEN GREATER PROMINENCE.



AMID THE RUBBLE, THE U.S. ORDERED AN ELECTION IN 1932. LIBERALS WON, BUT THE U.S. TURNED OVER THE NATIONAL GUARD TO **ANASTASIO SOMOZA GARCIA**, THE FIRST OF U.S.-BACKED DICTATORS THAT WOULD RULE NICARAGUA FOR 43 YEARS. MEANWHILE, THE MARINES WITHDREW, AND SANDINO NEGOTIATED A PEACE WITH THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT. HE REMAINED IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH HIS ARMY AND PLANNED FOR WHAT HE CALLED...



# REALIZING BOLIVAR'S SUPREME DREAM

SANDINO PROPOSED A MILITARY ALLIANCE, A KIND OF *LATIN AMERICAN NATO\** THAT WOULD:

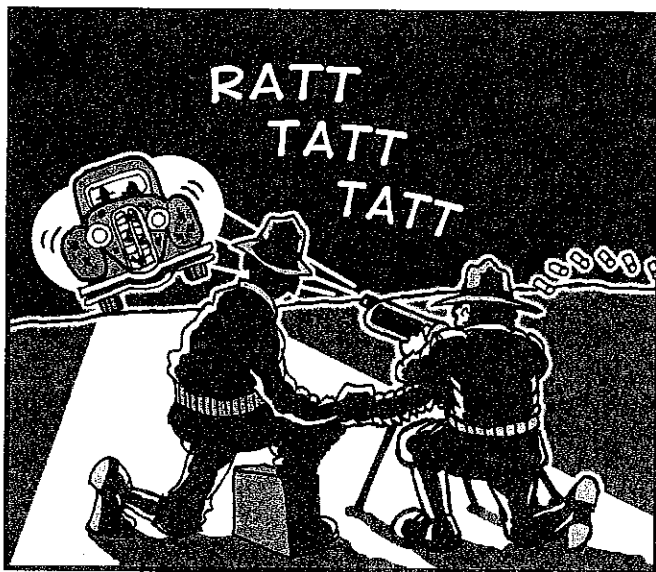
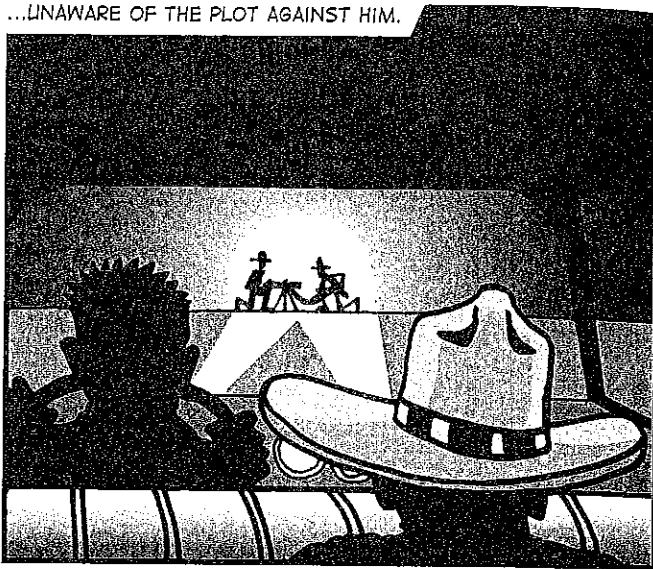
- DECLARE THE MONROE DOCTRINE NULL AND VOID
- CREATE A LATIN AMERICAN COURT TO RESOLVE DISPUTES AND WARN THE U.S. AGAINST INTERVENTIONS
- CONFISCATE U.S. PROPERTY IN THE REGION IN THE EVENT OF INTERVENTION
- DEMAND THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL U.S. TROOPS
- BUY OUT ALL U.S. CAPITAL INVESTMENTS
- FORBID ANY FUTURE U.S. INVESTMENTS
- FORBID RESIDENT U.S. CITIZENS FROM OWNING PROPERTY OTHER THAN PERSONAL EFFECTS

*\*NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION*

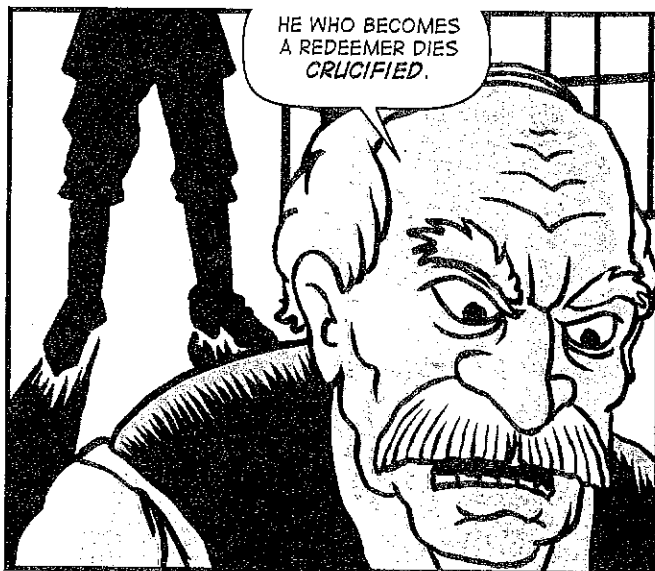


OF COURSE, IT WAS JUST A DREAM -- A DANGEROUS DREAM. AT 10:00 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 21, 1934, SANDINO LEFT A CORDIAL LATE DINNER AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE...

...UNAWARE OF THE PLOT AGAINST HIM.



MEANWHILE, SANDINO'S FATHER WAS BEING HELD IN PRISON.



THE ASSASSINS BURIED SANDINO AT A REMOTE AIRSTRIP...



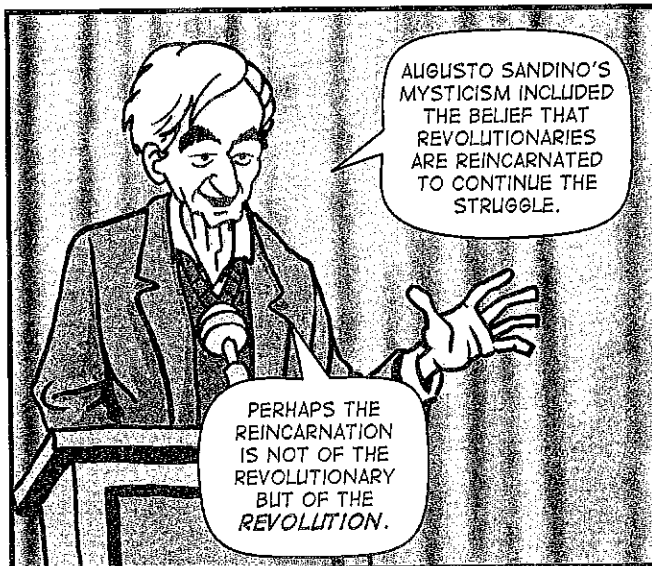
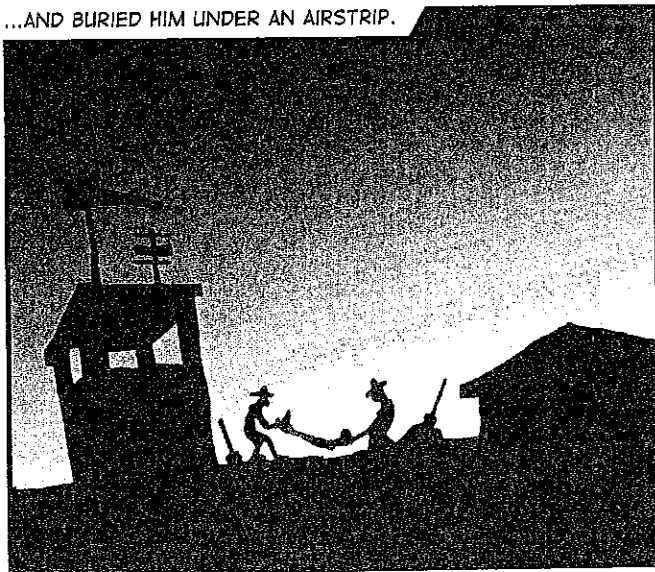
...AFTER STEALING HIS WATCH.



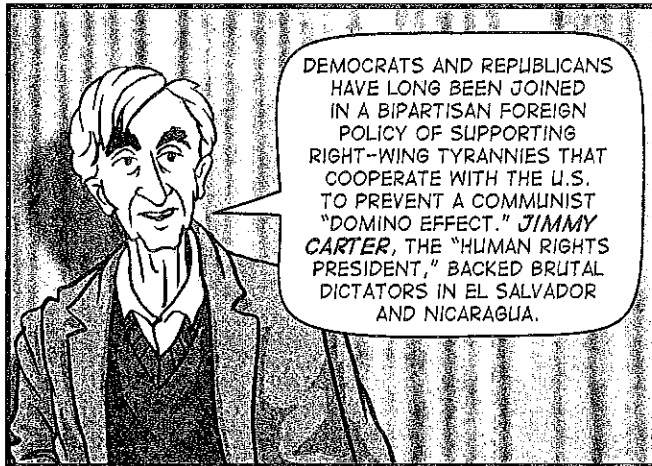
THIRTY-THREE YEARS LATER, CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY *CHE GUEVARA* WAS KILLED BY C.I.A. AGENTS, WHO TOOK HIS WATCH AS A TROPHY BEFORE THEY CUT OFF HIS HANDS...



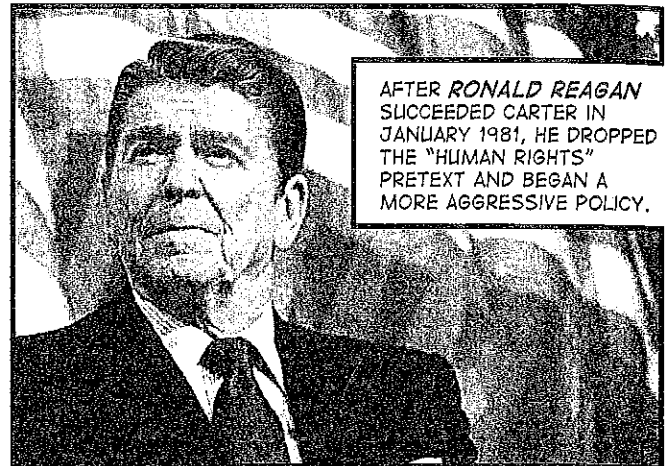
...AND BURIED HIM UNDER AN AIRSTRIP.



# The Covert War in Central America



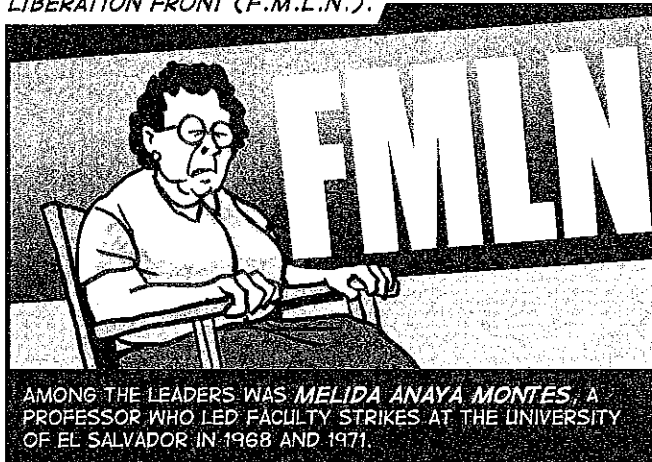
DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS HAVE LONG BEEN JOINED IN A BIPARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY OF SUPPORTING RIGHT-WING TYRANNIES THAT COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. TO PREVENT A COMMUNIST "DOMINO EFFECT." **JIMMY CARTER**, THE "HUMAN RIGHTS" PRESIDENT, BACKED BRUTAL DICTATORS IN EL SALVADOR AND NICARAGUA.



AFTER **RONALD REAGAN** SUCCEEDED CARTER IN JANUARY 1981, HE DROPPED THE "HUMAN RIGHTS" PRETEXT AND BEGAN A MORE AGGRESSIVE POLICY.

MILITARY JUNTAS HAD RULED EL SALVADOR FOR DECADES. BY THE LATE 1970s, MILITARY **DEATH SQUADS** HAD OBLITERATED THE URBAN LEFTIST OPPOSITION. IN 1980, REBEL GUERRILLA GROUPS FORMED THE **FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (F.M.L.N.)**.

REAGAN CONSIDERED THE F.M.L.N. A COMMUNIST THREAT. IN MARCH 1981, HE DRAMATICALLY INCREASED MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR'S RIGHT-WING DICTATORSHIP. C.I.A. DIRECTOR **WILLIAM CASEY** BLAMED THE SALVADORAN REBELLION ON THE SANDINISTAS IN NICARAGUA.

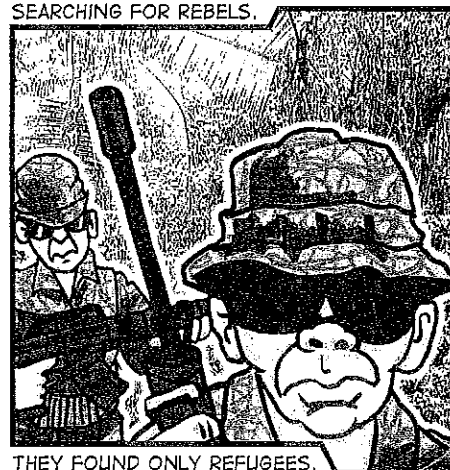


AMONG THE LEADERS WAS **MELIDA ANAYA MONTES**, A PROFESSOR WHO LED FACULTY STRIKES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR IN 1968 AND 1971.



LATER IN 1981, REAGAN AUTHORIZED \$19 MILLION FOR THE C.I.A. TO FORM AND FUND A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ARMY - THE **CONTRAS** - TO OVERTHROW THE LEFTIST SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT IN NICARAGUA. HIS MEDDLING IN BOTH COUNTRIES ACCOMPLISHED ITS OBJECTIVE: COVERT WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

DECEMBER 10, 1981: UNITS OF THE **ATLACATL BATTALION**, FUNDED AND TRAINED BY THE U.S., ARRIVED AT THE SALVADORAN VILLAGE OF EL MOZOTE SEARCHING FOR REBELS.



THEY FOUND ONLY REFUGEES.

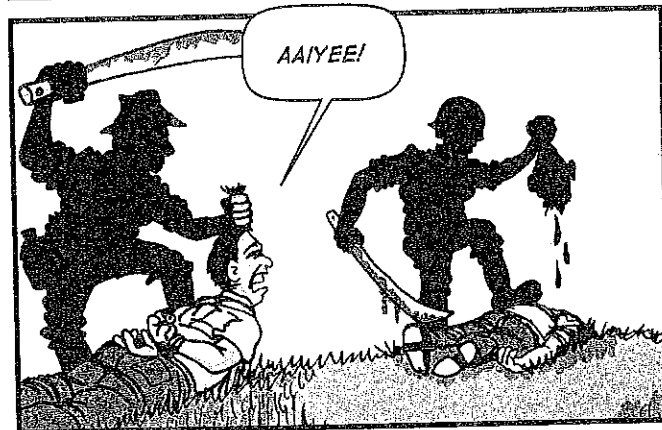
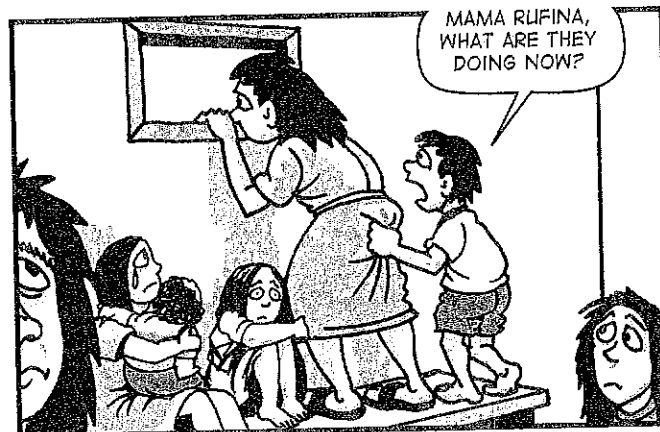
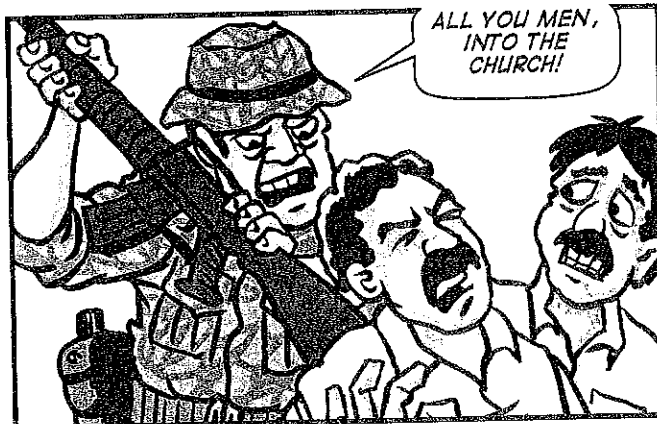
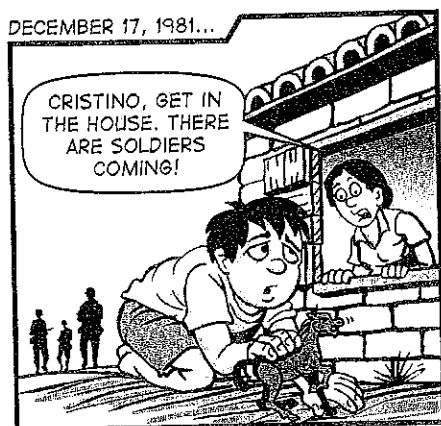
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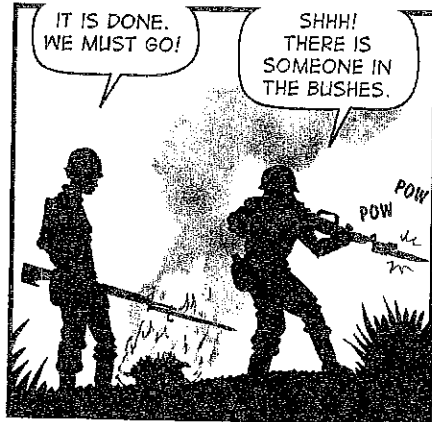
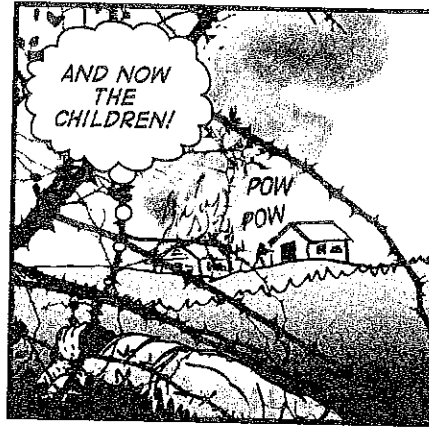
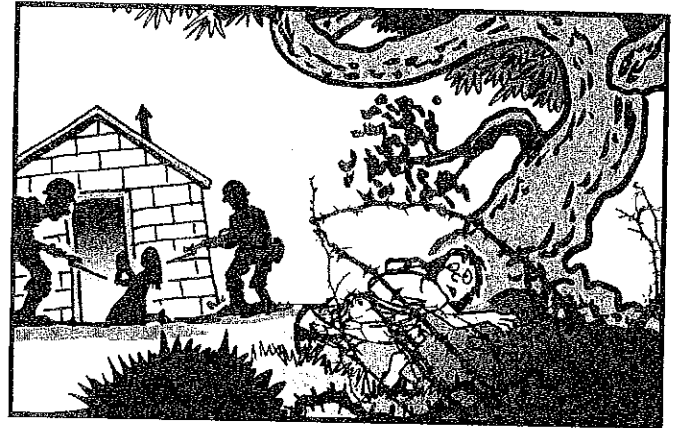
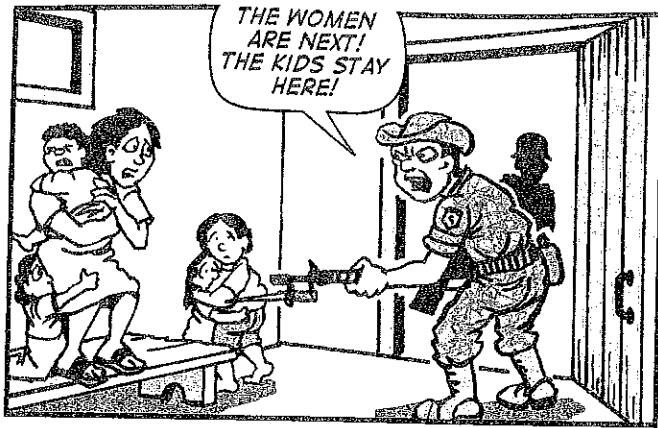
THE U.S. ARMY TRAINED OFFICERS OF THE **ATLACATL BATTALION** AT THE INFAMOUS **SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (S.O.A)**. MANY S.O.A. GRADUATES WENT ON TO COMMIT ATROCITIES THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA. BECAUSE OF CITIZEN PROTESTS, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN S.O.A. IN 2000 AND REOPENED IT IN JANUARY 2001 AS THE **WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION**.



# Massacre at El Mozote (The Thistle)

DECEMBER 17, 1981...



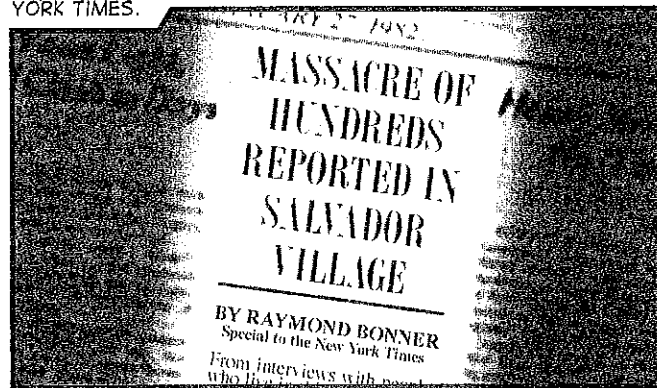




THE F.M.L.N. CONTACTED *NEW YORK TIMES* REPORTER **RAYMOND BONNER** AND TOOK HIM AND PHOTOGRAPHER **SUSAN MEISELAS** TO THE SITE.

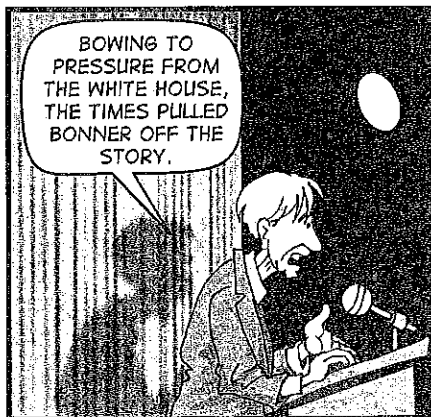
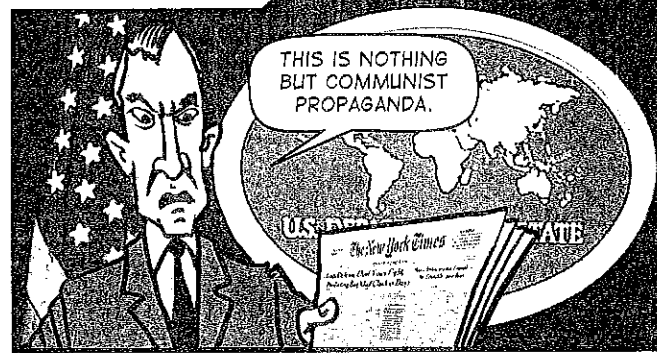
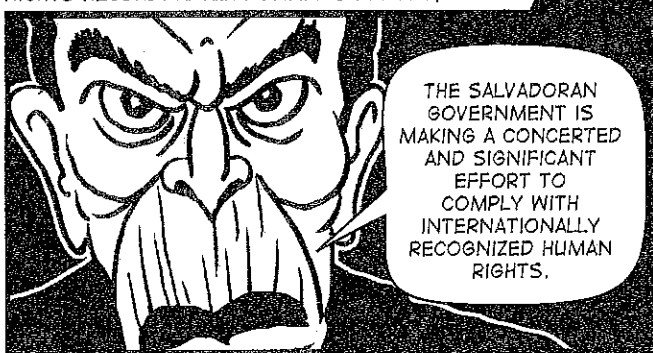


ON JANUARY 17, 1982, BONNER'S STORY APPEARED IN THE *NEW YORK TIMES*.



TO KEEP AID FLOWING, CONGRESS REQUIRED PRESIDENT REAGAN TO CERTIFY THAT EL SALVADOR WAS IMPROVING ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. AFTER BONNER'S REPORT, HE DID.

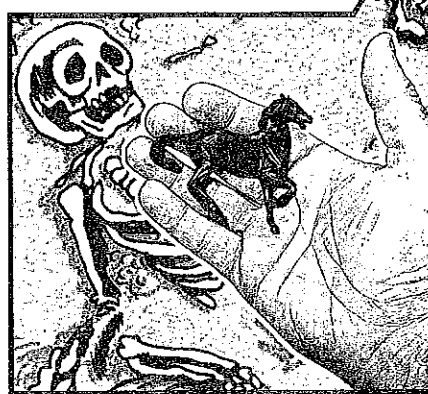
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS **ELLIOT ABRAMS** DENOUNCED REPORTS OF THE MASSACRE AT EL MOZOTE AS FICTION.



THE CIVIL WAR IN EL SALVADOR ENDED IN 1992. A TRUTH COMMISSION SENT FORENSIC SCIENTISTS TO EL MOZOTE.

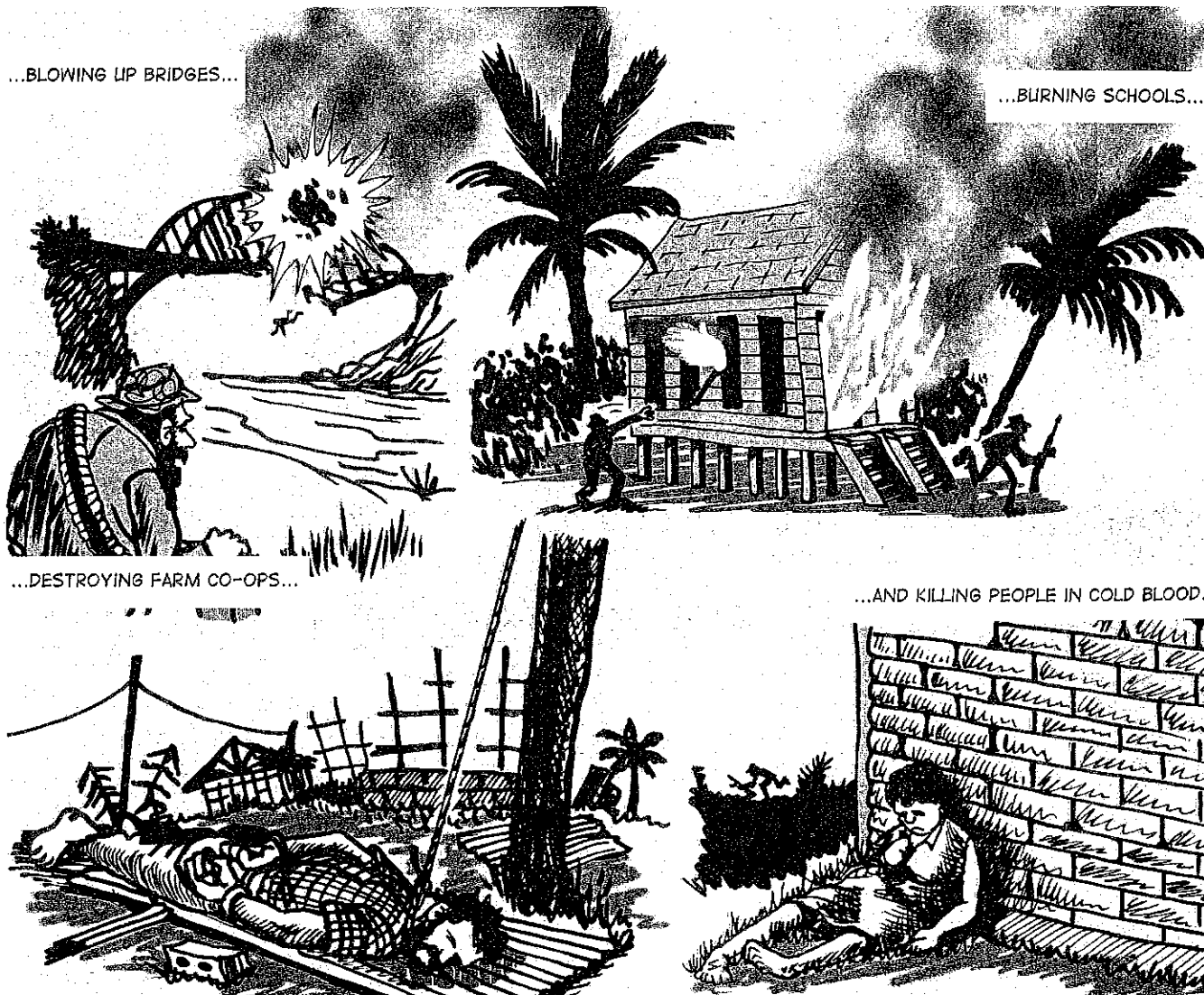
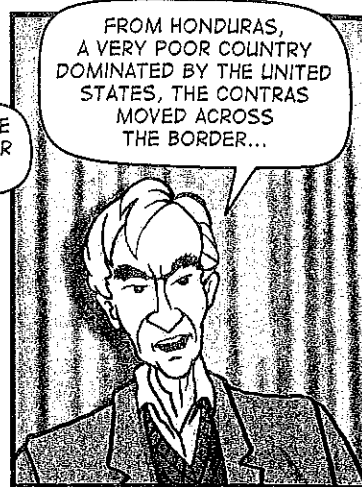
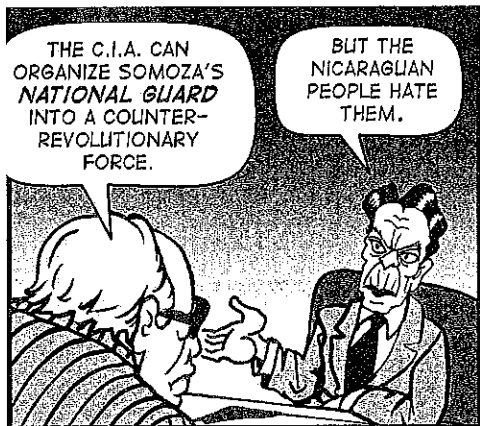


IT WAS ALL TRUE. IT WAS POLICY.



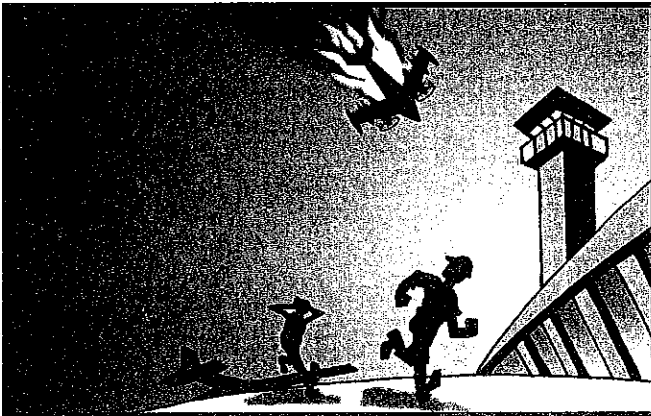
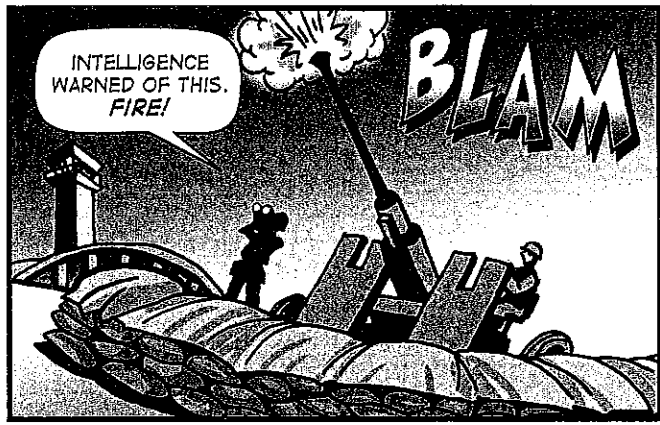
# The Contra War

BY THE TIME OF THE EL MOZOTE MASSACRE, REAGAN AND CASEY WERE ALREADY PLANNING THE *OVERTHROW* OF NICARAGUA'S SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT.

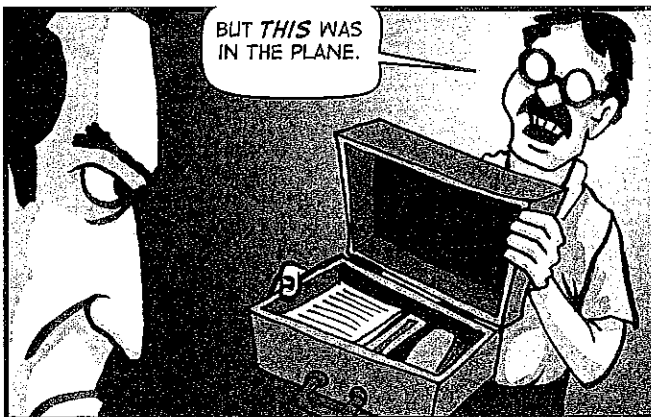
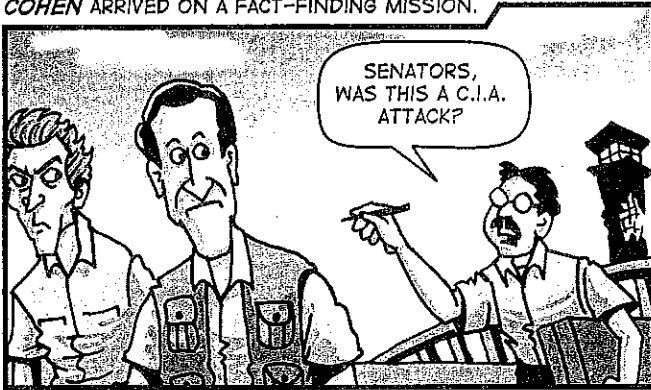


REAGAN THEN IMPOSED A TRADE EMBARGO AND CUT OFF ALL INTERNATIONAL LOANS TO THE SANDINISTA STATE. CASEY EGGED ON THE CONTRAS TO MAKE BOLDER ATTACKS.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1983: A TWIN-ENGINE CESSNA CARRYING TWO 500-POUND BOMBS FLEW LOW OVER THE MANAGUA AIRPORT.



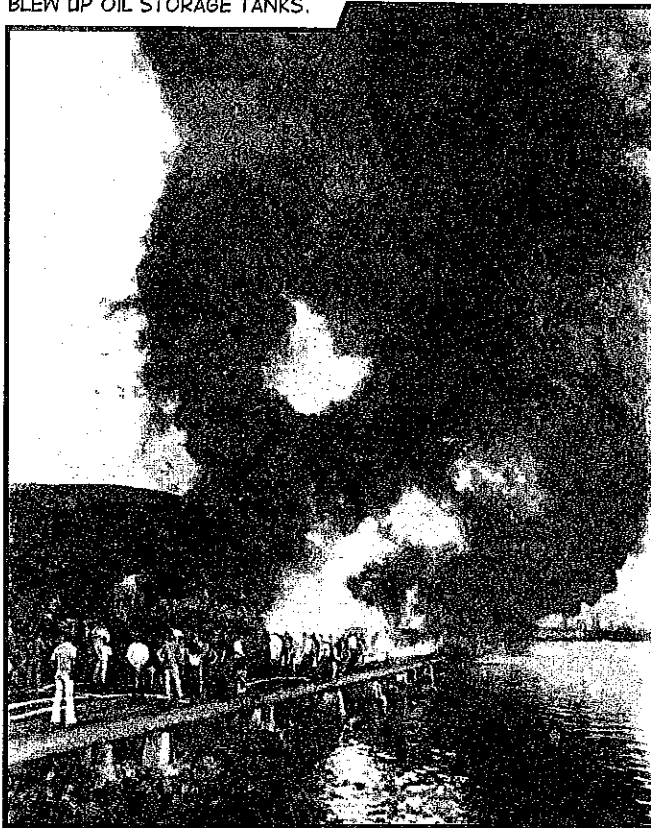
HOURS LATER, U.S. SENATORS GARY HART AND WILLIAM COHEN ARRIVED ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION.



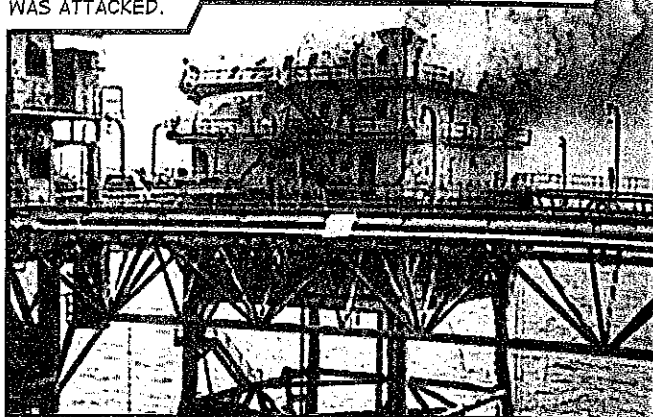
DESPITE COHEN'S DISCOVERY, CONGRESS DID NOTHING. CASEY ORDERED MORE ATTACKS.



OCTOBER 11, 1983, BAY OF CORINTO, NICARAGUA: THE CONTRAS BLEW UP OIL STORAGE TANKS.



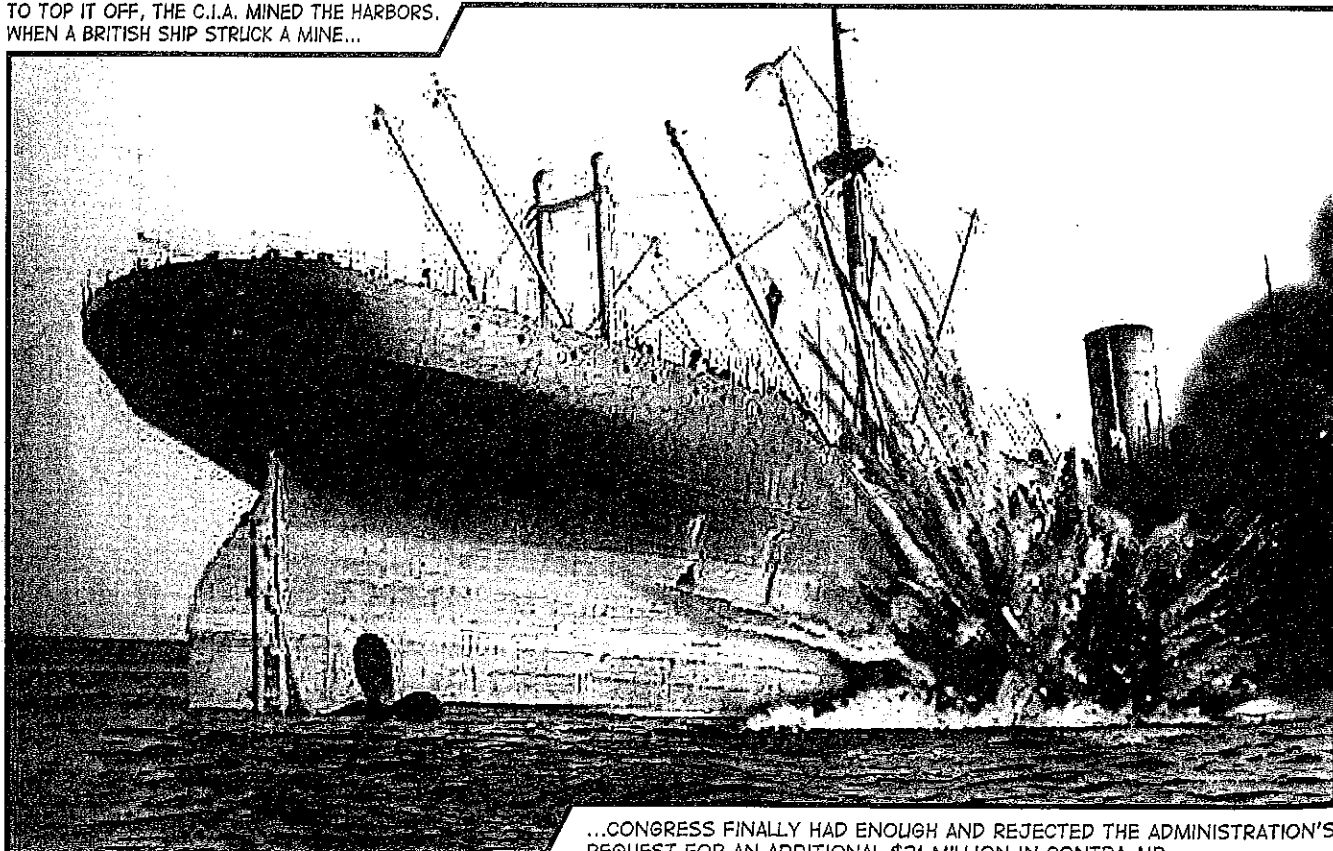
OCTOBER 14, 1983, PORT OF SANDINO: AN OIL PLATFORM WAS ATTACKED.



EXXON ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO BRING IN MORE TANKERS. THE CONTRAS TOOK THE CREDIT.



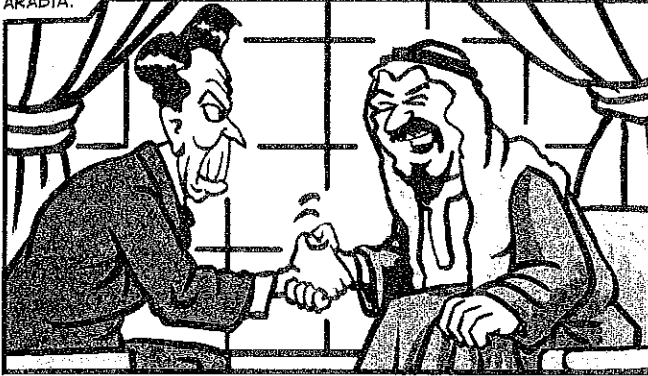
TO TOP IT OFF, THE C.I.A. MINED THE HARBORS. WHEN A BRITISH SHIP STRUCK A MINE...



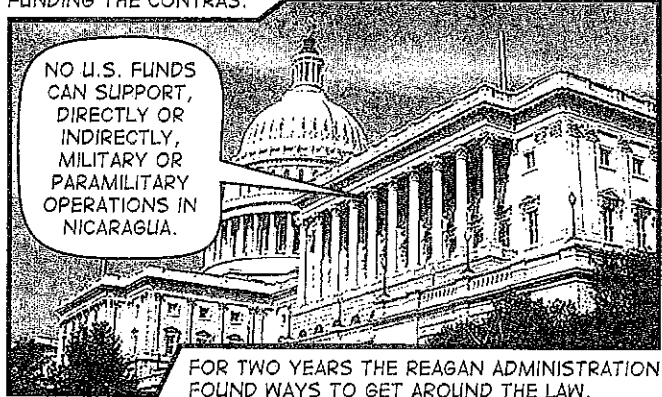
...CONGRESS FINALLY HAD ENOUGH AND REJECTED THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$21 MILLION IN CONTRA AID.

# The Iran-Contra Scandal

JULY 1984: WITH AN UNCOOPERATIVE CONGRESS, REAGAN SOUGHT FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR THE CONTRA WAR. HE PERSONALLY SOLICITED AT LEAST \$32 MILLION FROM SAUDI ARABIA.



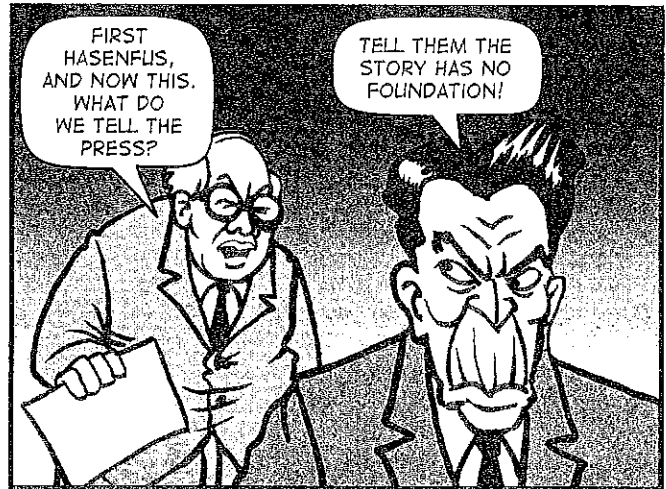
OCTOBER 1984: CONGRESS PASSED THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF BOLAND AMENDMENTS TIGHTENING RESTRICTIONS AGAINST FUNDING THE CONTRAS.



OCTOBER 5, 1986: THE SANDINISTAS SHOT DOWN A PLANE CARRYING WEAPONS TO THE CONTRAS AND CAPTURED U.S. CARGO HANDLER *EUGENE HASENFUS*, WHO LATER ADMITTED THAT HE WORKED FOR THE C.I.A.



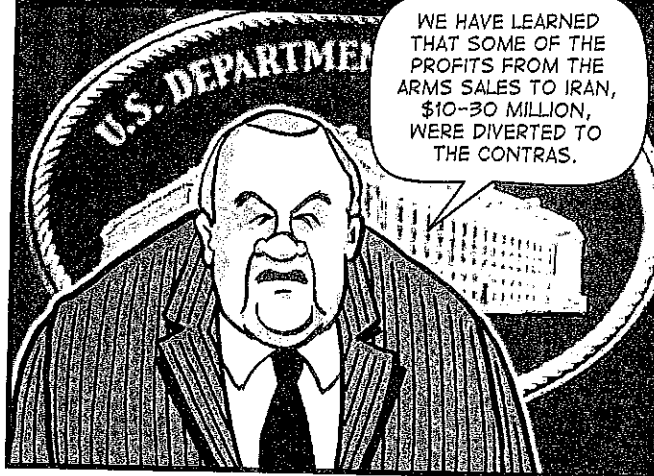
NOVEMBER 3, 1986: A LEBANESE MAGAZINE REVEALED THAT, DESPITE AN ONGOING ARMS EMBARGO, THE U.S. HAD SOLD *TOW AND HAWK MISSILES* TO IRAN THROUGH ISRAEL.



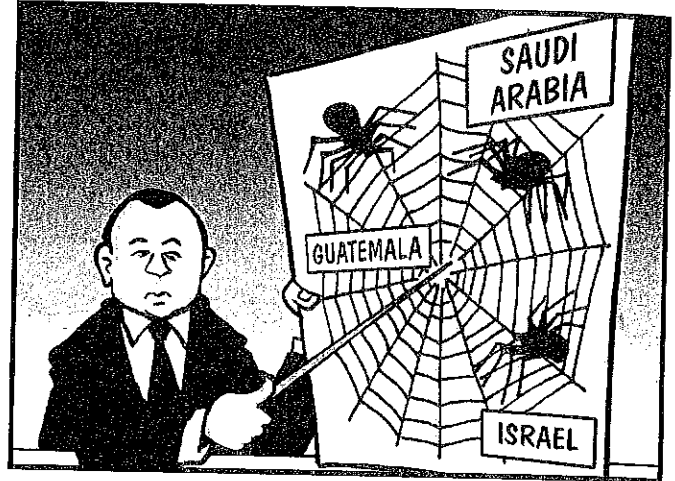
NOVEMBER 19, 1986 REAGAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND TOLD FOUR LIES.



NOVEMBER 25, 1986: ATTORNEY GENERAL **EDWIN MEESE** CONFIRMED THE DEAL WITH IRAN - AND DROPPED ANOTHER BOMBHELL.



CONGRESS HELD HEARINGS. THOUGH MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS *LIED UNDER OATH*, THE HEARINGS REVEALED A COMPLEX WEB OF CLANDESTINE DEALINGS WITH NUMEROUS COUNTRIES TO AID THE CONTRAS.



THOUGH PRESIDENT REAGAN AND VICE PRESIDENT **GEORGE H. W. BUSH** WERE INVOLVED, NEITHER WAS INDICTED. RATHER, THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE PUT LESSER CULPRITS, LIKE **OLIVER NORTH** AND **JOHN POINDEXTER**, ON THE WITNESS STAND. SEVERAL OF THEM WERE INDICTED.

AS FOR THE MAJOR CULPRITS, REAGAN RETIRED IN PEACE, AND VICE PRESIDENT BUSH WAS ELECTED THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.



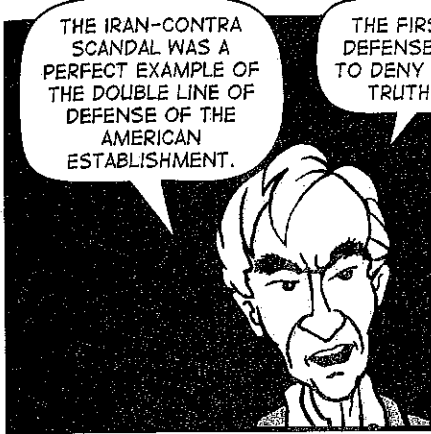
FROM 1986 TO 1989, CONGRESS INVESTIGATED LINKS BETWEEN DRUGS AND FOREIGN POLICY. IN THE SENATE, THE **KERRY COMMITTEE** FOUND:



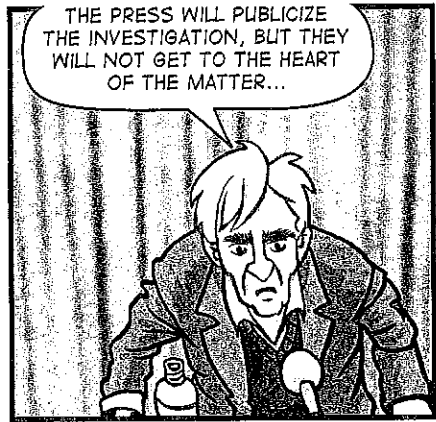
**ZINNFORMATION**

IN 1996, CALIFORNIA REPORTER **GARY WEBB** WROTE A THREE-PART SERIES FOR THE **SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS** CALLED **DARK ALLIANCE**. THE SERIES DESCRIBED C.I.A. KNOWLEDGE OF CONTRA DRUG SMUGGLING.

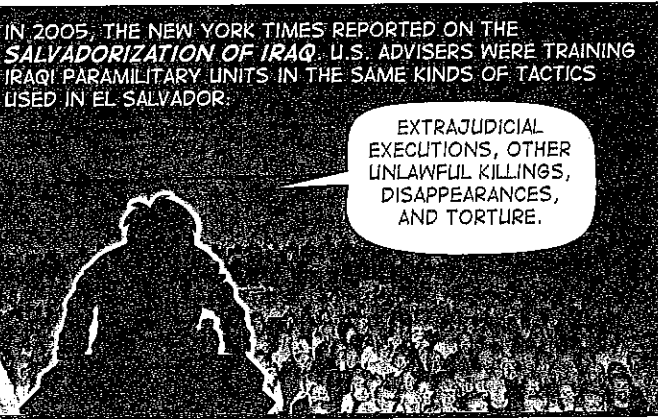
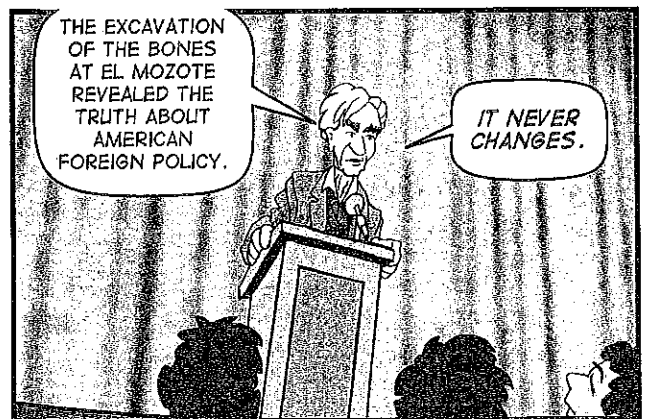
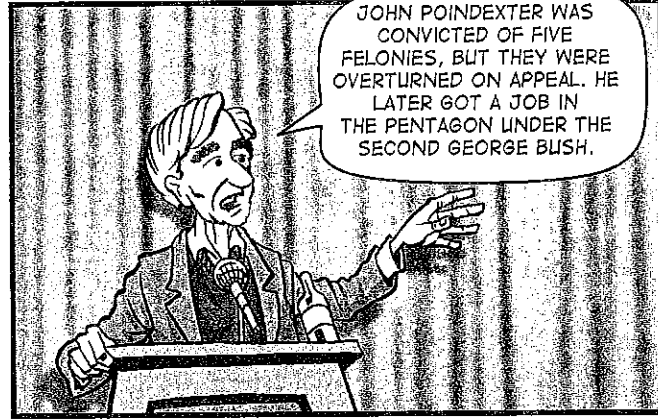
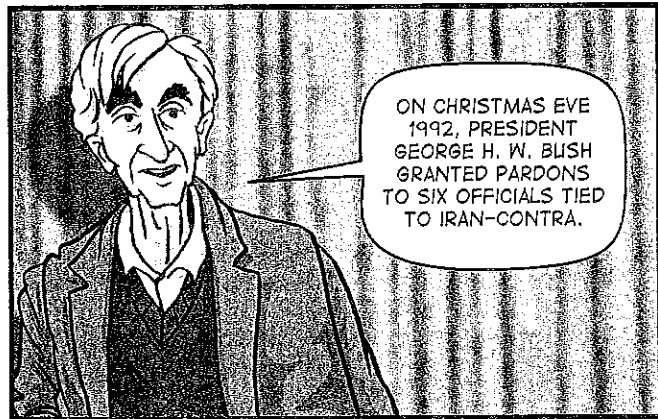
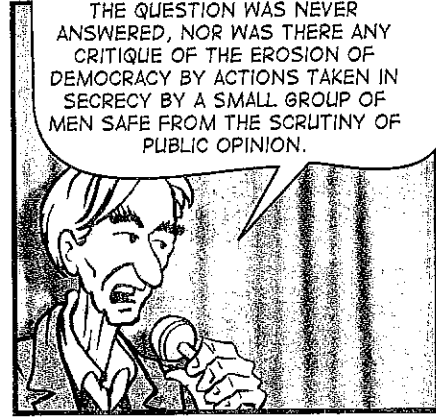
WHEN THE NEW YORK TIMES AND OTHER MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ATTACKED THE STORY, WHICH WAS NEVER DISPROVED, THE MERCURY NEWS FIRED WEBB, DESTROYING HIS CAREER. WEBB COMMITTED SUICIDE IN 2004.



THE FIRST DEFENSE IS TO DENY THE TRUTH.



HOW IS IT THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HIS STAFF ARE PERMITTED TO BACK A TERRORIST GROUP IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO OVERTHROW A GOVERNMENT THAT IS SUPPORTED BY ITS OWN PEOPLE?

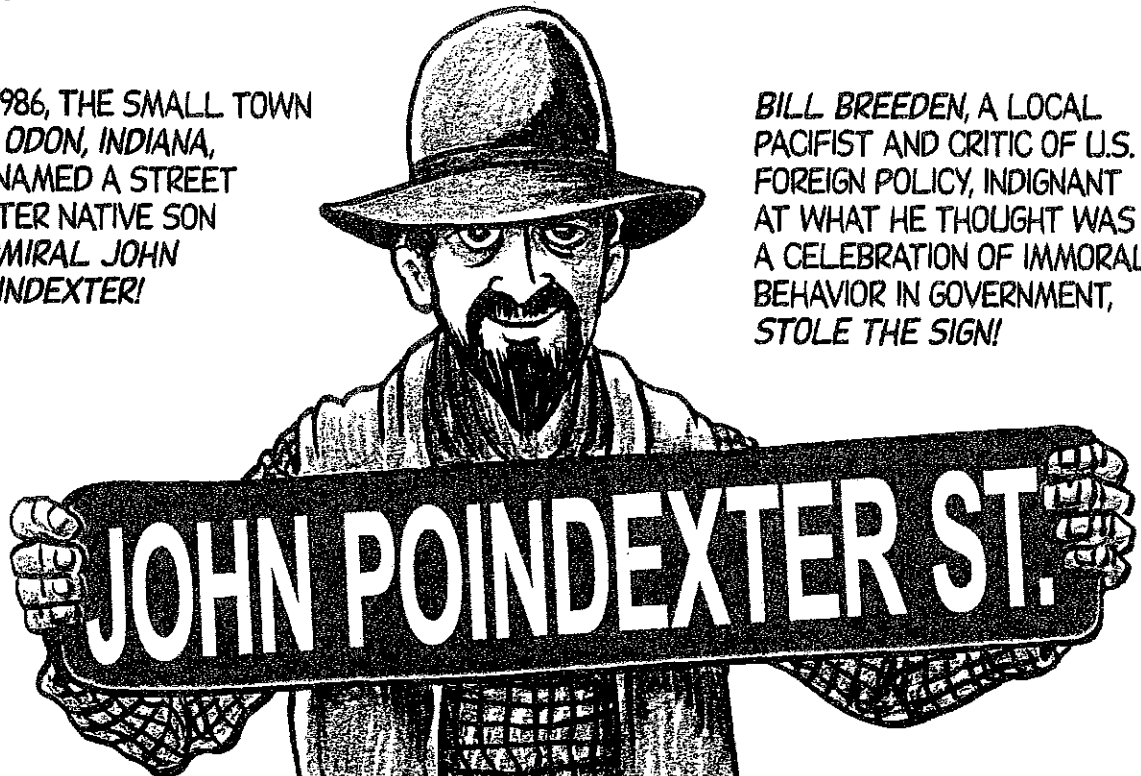


Howard  
Zinn's

# Believe It or Don't!

IN 1986, THE SMALL TOWN  
OF ODOM, INDIANA,  
RENAMED A STREET  
AFTER NATIVE SON  
ADMIRAL JOHN  
POINDEXTER!

BILL BREEDEN, A LOCAL  
PACIFIST AND CRITIC OF U.S.  
FOREIGN POLICY, INDIGNANT  
AT WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS  
A CELEBRATION OF IMMORAL  
BEHAVIOR IN GOVERNMENT,  
STOLE THE SIGN!



BREEDEN  
ANNOUNCED THAT  
HE WAS HOLDING IT  
FOR A "RANSOM" OF  
\$30 MILLION - THE  
AMOUNT OF MONEY  
THAT HAD BEEN  
TRANSFERRED TO THE  
CONTRAS. HE WAS  
ARRESTED, TRIED,  
CONVICTED, AND  
SENTENCED TO  
FOUR DAYS IN JAIL.



## Believe It or Don't!

BREEDEN WAS THE ONLY PERSON TO BE IMPRISONED AS A  
RESULT OF THE IRAN-CONTRA SCANDAL!